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It is the only

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FOR THE TIME BEING.

How long is that? A space as brief

As the twinkling of an eye.

To reach the end, the April days

To change to June, the June days

To change to July, the July days

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THE MODERN CYNIC.

His Contempt for What Others

Do And Say.

The Literary, Frigid, Theatrical, Bol-

lism and Domestic Varieties.

The Last-Name of the Worst of All,

But Every One a "Grand

Nutcase."

In spite of his name the cynic is not

altogether a creature of recent growth,

having by some process of natural

selection, developed into rudimentary

life very early in the history of man.

But of late years his race has enor-

mously increased, and it may be inter-

esting to note some peculiarities of a

being whose uses on earth are so small

and yet his increase so rapid. To de-

scribe him generally as a man who

admires nothing is too far vague to

admit of being accepted as a defini-

tion. Like all animals of complex machi-

nery he cannot be defined in a phrase. Man,

for instance, is not a being to which be-

longings have been denied a great many

times, but he is not without much un-

known. He has been called a debating

animal, but rats hold sacred convales-

and a gambling animal, but I believe I

have never seen a cynic gambling. So with

the different species of man. There is

no possible phrase which can at the

same time exclude other species and

comprehensively describe one.

It is true that the modern cynic ad-

mits nothing, but he is not a being who

respects himself for what he might have

done. This, however, permits him to

concentrate his admiration the more

intensely on himself. It may be also

said of him that he does nothing, but

then his inability, or rather his strength

to respect himself for what he might

have done. It may be further said that

he attains to nothing; but then he has

the power of considering what he might

have achieved, and with what superior

brilliance of execution he had the choice

to enter the arena. His game is little

known to the outer world, perhaps little

respected by the circle to which he be-

longs. His kind may be subdivided

into several principal, and a very large

number of subsidiary classes.

The literary cynic, of course, the

first that demands attention, not be-

cause he is the most important but be-

cause he makes the most noise. He is

to be found in certain papers, daily and

weekly; in one or two magazines, and

in a few novels. He is not, as a rule,

scholarly, nor perhaps has his thought

so much depth as can be observed in

the works of the ancient philoso-

phers, but he makes up for these

defects by smartness and by an

overwhelming sense of superiority,

which, spite of a possibly kind

heart can refrain from breaking out

into sneers. He acts as critic, either on

books or on men, and on men, if on

books, he has one rule to start with and

one method of treatment. An impos-

sible standard is set up—that stand-

ard of excellence which our cynic would

reach himself, or rather, he writes, and

then, this being implied rather than ex-

plained, he proceeds to show how far

short the writer has fallen. This done,

he next holds up to popular scorn any

stray bits where the author has plunged

into enthusiasm, fallen into genuine

feeling, or become a victim to virtue

and goodness. All these backslidings

are carefully picked out and paraded,

labeled as "crush." To prevent "gush,"

indeed, is the literary cynic's chief

PITH AND POINT.

—The merchant who hangs out in

front of his store the sign: "Don't go

somewhere else to be swindled; walk in

here," is honest, to say the least.—Low-

ell Times.

—It is remarkable what a difference

there is in the sensation when you get a

letter enclosing a ten-dollar bill and

when you get one enclosing a bill for

ten dollars.—

—An exchange has an article headed

"Boys and Contagion." What the

little boy can catch isn't worth catch-

ing, only he doesn't always catch it at

he deserves.—St. Louis (N.) Assen-

der.

—In a thing what matters should do,

an archer says: "Allow the children,

as they grow older, to have opinions of

their own." Wonder what kind of chil-

dren this writer has had to do with?—

Boston Transcript.

—A Tennessee negro who did of

general debility was turned over to the

doctor, and a post-mortem revealed a

score of shirt buttons in his stomach.

We are not surprised. A man's shirt

buttons are almost never where they

ought to be.—

—Wonder where Spaulding gets the

big words he uses so plentifully in his

writings. "Out of the dictionary, of

course." "That accounts for it! He

uses three words in ten lines, the other

day, of which I did not know the

meaning. I went to the dictionary, but

they weren't there. Probably, as you

suggest, Spaulding has taken them.—

Boston Post.

—"Look here, I wish you would ex-

plain how you got into one of your

garrets!" said a miserly old man to a

beacon store and holding up a little

strip of calico. The manufacturer

eyed it with disgust, and exclaimed:

"It's those new girls again. They

don't seem to know the difference be-

tween a mother Hubbard and a Con-

necticut wrapper!"—Chicago Tribune.